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LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 1500 hours on 12 January 1997 a number of warplanes belonging to the Coalition countries dropped five incendiary devices 10 kilometres south of Dohuk, alarming the residents of the area.

I request you to intervene with the countries whose aircraft overfly northern Iraq, as well as those that allow such aircraft to be based in their territory, with a view to halting and preventing any future repetition of unwarranted acts that are in breach of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, constitute a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and alarm large numbers of its citizens and damage their property.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused by the activities of these aircraft, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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